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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## PROTECTION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

NEW YORK COURT DECIDES THAT MILK DEALERS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO WIDAL TEST.

The commissioner of public safety and the health officer of the city of Rochester, N. Y., required that all applicants for licenses to sell milk should submit to a blood test to determine whether or not they were possible carriers of the typhoid bacillus.

An applicant for renewal of such a license refused to permit the test to be made and applied to the courts for a mandamus to compel the commissioner of public safety to renew his license. The court refused to compel the renewal of the license. In the opinion Judge Rodenbeck said:

It is important \* \* \* to the whole community that the supply of milk and cream should be kept clean, pure, and wholesome and should not be contaminated with impurities or infected with disease; and it is the duty of the health authorities to see that this is accomplished by the establishment of such reasonable regulations as may be necessary to meet existing conditions or to ward off impending dangers to the public health, and in imposing a blood test as a condition to a license to sell milk and cream in the city the commissioner of public safety and the health officer acted within the scope of their authority, and applicants for such a license should cooperate with the public authorities and assist rather than oppose reasonable efforts to provide pure and wholesome milk and cream for the people of the city. The requirement of a blood test of an applicant for a license is just a step, and a small one, in the direction of the protection of the public health, but every reasonable effort made in this direction should be encouraged so long as it does not unreasonably infringe upon the rights of the individual.

The opinion is published in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 90.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

By G. B. YOUNG, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

In the following report are contained the results of a study of the organization and administration of the health department of St. Paul, Minn. The work was begun May 1, 1916, and this report submitted September 15, 1916. The study was made at the request of